



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
120 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05620-2501

May 6, 2009

Dear Superintendents and Principals,

There are many conversations currently occurring about the opportunities and challenges involved in appropriately and effectively spending additional funds from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to ensure the best outcomes for Vermont students. My staff and I are making every effort to get answers to some critical questions that we all need to move forward.

Questions have come up about the relationship of Title I funds and school accountability. I want to remind everyone that Vermont has a state accountability system as required by Act 60. All schools in Vermont are identified by the same criteria, whether they receive Title I funds or not.

A change in a school's funding sources, i.e. receiving or not receiving Title I funds, will not change the school's status in the accountability system. It would likely impact their access to resources or to some of the specific consequences, such as choice and/or supplemental educational services, required by Title I.

On another note, I would like to provide guidance on the 20 percent set-aside for Title I schools, which requires schools to provide supplemental services to their students. My interpretation is that schools do not have to physically set aside the funds, but must ensure that, if a request for these services is made, these funds will be made available.

For the latest information from our office on Title I and the ARRA, please visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/recovery_act.html#title_1.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Armando Vilaseca".

Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Education